

March 21, 2013

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 pm on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Board member Shelton was not present. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Asst. Chief Harms; Terry Burnworth – Pyramid; Jerry Walden; Nancy Sexton; Ed Adams; Jim Swinney, Mel Levin, Mike Ashworth, Mary Weintraut – Greater Mt. Vernon Association; Sonny and Charley Lawrence; Larry Williams; Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Supt. Givens.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Fuelling moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated he has no report.

Supt. Gray stated Phase 3 Intakes in complete. He added hopefully by April 19th the work on moving the electric panels up out of the flood plain will also be complete. He stated everything is working great, a few glitches, but that is to be expected.

Board member Fuelling questioned the building.

Supt. Gray replied the building is complete and in an effort to reduce the corrosion they had previously, the frame was hot dipped galvanized as well as primed and painted.

Board member Fuelling replied good deal.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

There were none,

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Curtis moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Supt. Givens arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously, and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Councilwoman Shelton was not present. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Asst. Chief Harms; Terry Burnworth – Pyramid; Jerry Walden; Nancy Sexton; Ed Adams; Jim Swinney, Mel Levin, Mike Ashworth, – Greater Mt. Vernon Association; Sonny and Charley Lawrence; Larry Williams; Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat; Supt. Givens; and arriving during the meeting, Mary Weintraut.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Hoehn moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairman Hoehn stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?
There were none.

Police & Dog Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report..
Chief Belloat stated he has no report.
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?
There were none.

Fire Chairman Shelton was not present.
Chief Dixon stated he has no report.
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?
There were none.

Sewer Chairman Fuelling stated the sewer project is almost complete and looks good, per the update at today's Board of Works meeting.
Supt. Givens stated Councilman Fuelling pretty much covered it, the last phase was completed today – the digester blowers. He added there are bugs to work out, but it is a good plant, and everyone should be proud of how it turned out.
Councilwoman Higgins asked if his traffic issue out there has gotten any better ?
Supt. Givens replied no, it is terrible. The signs that have been put up have not helped, the semis still think the entrance is Lexan Lane. He added he even emailed Google Earth a month ago to update their map and he has gotten no reply. He stated a week ago there were four semis in 8 hours that turned in and then had to back out.
Jerry Walden suggested they try to give INDOT a call and pass that information on to them – they may have a little more clout.

Supt. Givens stated he was asked to get some numbers together for Mr. Lawrence's Subdivision. He stated Phase 1 looks to be 5451 linear feet, at a cost of \$391.00/ft., or a total of \$21,313.41, for the material only, this is not including the cost of installation. He added there looks to be 48 manholes needed – one manhole is \$1,891.06 for a total for the manholes of \$90,770.88.
Councilman Curtis stated they are also going to need the cost of installation.
Supt. Givens replied he does not know that. He added this also does not include any lift stations that might be needed.
Councilman Hoehn asked that Supt. Givens put some figures down on paper for them to review.
Supt. Givens replied that he can do that.
Councilman Curtis suggested that lift stations be cited as possible options.
Councilman Fuelling also suggested it be broken down by street.
Mary Weintraut arrived at the meeting.
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?
There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?
Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda.
Attorney Higgins stated the first item is a Resolution Establishing the Brittlebank Swim Team Fund Within the City of Mount Vernon-Black Township Park & Recreation Department and Establishing the Unsafe Building Fund. She added this came as a request from the Park & Rec for their swim team, for non-tax dollars, as they operate off of fundraisers, meet fees, entry fees, etc. They need to keep this money separate from their regular operating money. She then stated the Unsafe Building Fund comes as a

result of the ordinance they passed at their last meeting creating new criteria for hearings on dilapidated buildings. She added this fund would receive any fines, costs paid, etc. and pay out costs used for the enforcement process (title searches, advertising, etc.).

Councilman Hoehn moved the Resolution be passed. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follow:

Shelton – absent; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman added it will be numbered 13-5.

Attorney Higgins stated she has had no word on the Annexation Study, so they will table this.

Mayor Tucker stated in the Audience are member of the Greater Mt. Vernon Association and he believes Mel Levin would like to address the Council.

Mr. Levin stated he, Mary Weintraut, Mike Ashworth, and Jim Swinney are members of the Greater Mt. Vernon Association, which has been in existence for quite some time. He added they were established to assist with economic development in the community and help local businesses. He added they believe that those who work in Mt. Vernon should live in Mt. Vernon. He stated the Association supports what the City has done so far. He added he has a Resolution to present, acknowledging the City has limited funds and also has a lot on its plate. Again, they believe folks who work in Mt. Vernon need to live in Mt. Vernon. Mt. Vernon's population has declined, mainly among younger people and their families – the City is losing young people – the future of its community. He added they believe a focused effort is needed to attract young people. Joint efforts are needed here. The Association's main concern is the appearance of the Main Street Business District, this must be addressed to appear more family friendly. He added they are requesting the City aggressively make revitalization on Main Street a top priority, and upgrade or remove building along Main Street. He concluded by stating the Association is behind the Council's efforts. The town has really improved and there is a lot happening here.

Mayor Tucker stated he has a statement he would like to make along these same lines. First, he wants to thank the Greater Mt. Vernon Association for helping and the city is lucky to have tax payer support as they move aggressively to enforce their ordinances. He added code hearings on dilapidated buildings are held right here in City Hall and are open to the public. He is certain that Bldg Comm. Willis and Attorney Higgins would appreciate the support. Good things are happening and the city's job is to create a friendly and attractive place to draw more folks in. He added in the past five years alone, Mrs. Willis has addressed over 69 dilapidated buildings and Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman's office handles between 150 and 200 weed notices every summer. Of those, the Street Department then mows if the owner does not comply – 63 last summer alone. He added when he was campaigning the number one issue he kept hearing about was the riverfront – that has been taken care of. Lots of folks also wanted a dependable water and sewer system – and he is happy to report that Mt. Vernon is now one of the very few smaller communities to be IDEM compliant on CSO's. He also heard that folks wanted more activities – there have been 50 in the downtown area in the past five years. He then urged folks to contact INDOT about the condition of 4th Street – constant calls from the mayor may not do as much as calls from actual citizens. It is definitely a team effort between the public, Council, everyone. He stated he would also like to address truck traffic. In 2012, according to the Port, there were 82,500 trucks in and out of the Port – the Port only. That isn't counting the trucks for GAF, Sabic, Countrymark, etc. People need to contact their state legislators as well as INDOT – this is a safety issue in and out of the Port. He added they are also about to totally lose Kimball Street. He stated he is definitely not against trucks, he would just

encourage everyone to make some calls to encourage INDOT to take action. He concluded by stating he would like to thank Mr. Levin and the Association for their support. It means a lot.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

Mr. Walden stated in reference to the county bridge east of town, that should start fairly soon. The city has taken care of getting the sewer line off the bridge, and since the city maintains that road, a good time to take care of that may be while the road is still closed.

Councilman Fuelling asked if he had a time frame ?

Mr. Walden replied there is no time schedule yet, but the ball is in the county's court and they want to get it done quickly.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilman Curtis stated he would like to update them on the police and fire station project. They started looking into this roughly six years ago and they have now found a site and thanks to funding by Mrs. Suits, the Black Township Trustee, the building has been purchased. Pyramid, the architect, is present tonight as well with the floor plan they have developed over the past six months. He stated the current estimate is \$1 - \$1.2M, which is about \$2M less than when they first started looking into this. He added they have a 22 step action plan and are currently on step 12 – putting together the bid packages. He stated the idea was to find a great location, which they did; they are utilizing an already existing building that will no longer be sitting empty, and they hope to structure the bid packages so local contractors have an opportunity to bid. Again, Mr. Burnworth, with Pyramid, has been working on all of this for free. Mr. Burnworth stated his firm specializes in the construction of police and fire stations, and dispatch centers. Packaging the bids is very important to get local contractors to bid. The location is great as it will be revamping 4th Street.

Councilman Curtis stated they will be contacting individual companies for assistance in funding and between that and the efforts of the Black Township Trustee, the city can expect, worse case scenario, to have to fund \$700,000 - \$800,000.00. He stated the current facility needs to be replaced. He believes Councilwoman Higgins is already busy fundraising.

Councilwoman Higgins stated she has the first fundraiser already underway – the Police and Firemen's' Ball. She added this had been a tradition from 1880 to 1969. She stated she is looking at May or June and Asst. Chief Harms is her co-chair.

Mayor Tucker stated Councilman Curtis and Councilwoman Higgins have done a great job.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker state they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Shelton was not present.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he would like to thank Mr. Levin for coming. The Council feels the support but it makes a big difference to hear it. It gives the Council more power, more teeth – it's great. He then stated Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization wanted to know how Mt. Vernon was accomplishing so much.

Mayor Tucker agreed and added they were impressed. He stated Mt. Vernon has been getting some good press and they wanted how Mt. Vernon was so successful in such difficult times. He stated he told them it's the people – volunteers – public – grants.

3rd District Councilman Hoehn stated he wants to reiterate what Councilman Fuelling and Mayor Tucker have said. He added as a councilman, you always wonder how things will go, and it's nice when people will stand up and say the kinds of things they have heard tonight. He added they all need to be working to make things come together and they need to be on the front of that. Councilman Fuelling agreed.

4th District Councilman Curtis agreed and added collaboration and cooperation are the keys and it started here with the Council. It feels real good. He thanked everyone for their support.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins thanked the committee that she chaired for finding the location for the police and fire station. That will be a source of pride for the City.

Mayor Tucker stated thank you, thank you, thank you, and with that being said, he stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Hoehn moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer